Income Tax Officers engaged in Assessment Work

3744. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Income Tax Officer, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners in Income Tax Department actually engaged in assessment work;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 50 per cent of the officers are supervising the work and 50 per cent of their time is spent on innumerable number of statistics of information which contains 200 items;

(c) if so, what is the productive use to which such information is put to; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration to rearrange and collect such information once in six months so that the services of the officers can be utilized for productive purposes such as assessment and collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) As on 1.4.92, 2663 Officers of the rank of Income Tax Officer, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax were deployed for Assessment work.

(b) No, Sir. The percentage of officers deployed on assessment work is around 55 per cent of the sanctioned strength. In addition to the assessment work, the officers are also deployed for enforcement work such as search and seizure and survey, work relating to tax recovery, judicial, audit, public relations etc. The time spent by the assessing officers in furnishing statistical information, is not substantial.

(c) Statistical information is reuired for formulating and evaluating policies and also monitoring and controlling the progress of work in the department.

(d) No, Sir. Statistical statements are obtained from the assessing officers at different periodical intervals, depending on the nature of the information required.

Computerisation of Bombay Stock Exchange

3745. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express of the 9th July, 1992 under the caption "BSE computerisation programme Government sits tight on forex release";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and what are the facts of the matter; and

(c) what are the details of steps taken/proposed to clear the proposal and release the required foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Government have noted the news item on the subject referred to in the Question.

(b) The Bombay Stock Exchange has informed that they had submitted an application dated 17th February, 1992 to the Reserve Bank of India requesting for issue of free foreign exchange to the extent of approximately US dollar 10.0 million in connection with their computerisation programme. The Reserve Bank of India in their reply dated 22nd February, 1992 advised the Exchange, *inter alia*, to obtain clearance from the Department of Electronics for the project/proposed imports and also to explore the possibilities of arranging foreign currency finance through some financial institutions. The Exchange has informed that in the context of new import/export policy it has become possible to finance foreign exchange component of the computerisation programme through open market purchases. Accordingly the Exchange is evaluating the mode of financing the foreign exchange cost. The Exchange has also informed that the news item referred to in part (a) of the Question is incorrect in view of the fact mentioned cited above.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.